

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods, measures, or practices used to protect, maintain, and preserve water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat.

A few examples of rural BMPs (agricultural) would include practices such as:

- Terraces, stripcropping, buffer strips, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, filter strips, livestock exclusion fencing, pasture management, stream-bank stabilization and in-stream habitat practices.

A few examples of urban BMPs (residential) would include:

- Native landscaping, permeable paving, infiltration trenches or basins, rain gardens, and septic system controls.

CURRENT PARTICIPATING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

Catfish Creek Coalition
City of Dubuque Planning
Dubuque County Board of Supervisors
Dubuque County Conservation Board
Dubuque County Engineering
Dubuque County Health Department
Dubuque County Zoning Department
Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District
East Central Intergovernmental Assn.
Iowa DNR Fisheries
Iowa DNR Forestry
Land Owner Representatives
Local Contractor(s)
Natural Resources Conservation Service
SIERRA Club

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WIRB—This project is supported in part by the Iowa Watershed Improvement Fund administered by the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board and with the support from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation.

UPPER CATFISH CREEK WATERSHED



CONSERVING AND ENHANCING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

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WHAT IS WATERSHED A PROJECT?

A watershed project is an extensive process that will develop and implement practical and cost-effective ways to conserve, protect, and enhance soil and water quality, wildlife habitat, and land use. Important concepts would include:

- Landowner involvement
- Planning for development
- Cost-Share Programs
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Educational/Informational Awareness

Citizen participation is an important key to any successful local watershed project. Citizens are more than an information source for problems; they can also be the source of solutions.

CATFISH CREEK

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has labeled the Catfish Creek as a cold-water - Class "B"(CW) stream from the Swiss Valley Park Campgrounds and south approximately 3 miles. About one mile of the stream has brown trout naturally reproducing (one of only 30 streams in Iowa and the only one in Dubuque County with this capability). The Iowa DNR stocks catch-able trout in the Swiss Valley Park April through June and September through November.

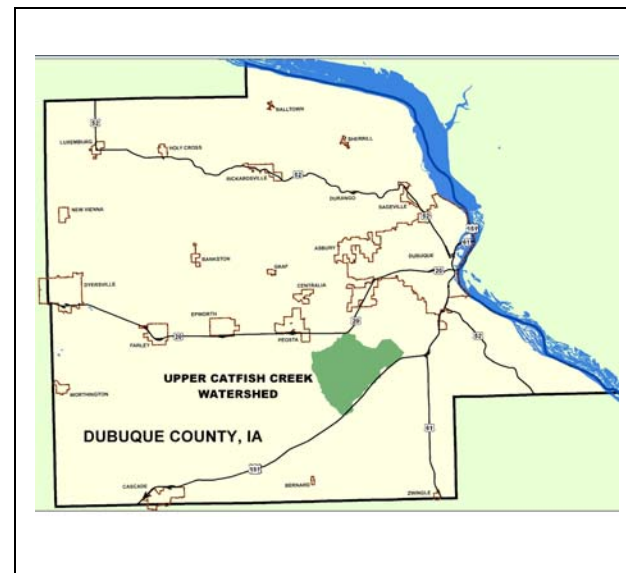
Support for and interest in the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed project is outstanding. Members of the Watershed Council include officials of the City of Dubuque (Planning), Dubuque County, local organizations (East Central Intergovernmental Agency, Catfish Creek Coalition, and SIERRA Club), the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, and watershed landowners.

GOALS OF THIS PROJECT

- I. Reduce sediment loading by 30%, and protect the coldwater characteristics of the stream by reducing thermal impacts due to the anticipated urban development within the watershed.
 - Best Management Practices implemented throughout the watershed. Less runoff/greater infiltration – lowers erosion and temperature.
 - Offset impacts of residential/commercial expansion.
- II. Facilitate an inter-jurisdictional assessment and planning effort to develop a shared vision for city and county leadership that enables local decision-makers to more effectively address future zoning and urban development issues.
 - Develop a Comprehensive GIS database to proactively address potential water quality problems through better planning/zoning.
 - Develop local coalition with other conservation partners.
- III. Develop an intensive information and education program designed to address water quality issues resulting from urban development for watershed stakeholders and community leaders.
 - Septic System Workshop
 - Website Development
 - Field Site Demonstrations
 - Quarterly Newsletters

The Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District is working to preserve the qualities people love about Dubuque County, while protecting our natural resources.

Upper Catfish Creek Watershed includes 9,300 acres located to the west and south of the city of Dubuque within Table Mound and Vernon townships. The watershed is roughly bordered by Highway 20 to the north and Highway 151 to the south. The watershed encompasses the Swiss Valley Park and the Swiss Valley Nature Center.



BECOME INVOLVED

A watershed with healthy water resources is not the result of a single activity on or near a river, stream, or lake. It is a cumulative result of many individual activities throughout the water bodies entire natural drainage area. Everyone has a stake in a watershed, wherever they live.

For further information contact the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District at 563-876-3418, Ext 3.